FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION
(please fill in the highlighted areas)

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

A. Applicant Name: Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited

B. Mailing Address: PO Box 1

C. City: Ovando State: MT Zip: 59854

Telephone: 406-677-6454

D. Contact Person: Ryen Neudecker

Address if different from Applicant:

City: State: Zip:

Telephone:

E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): Stew and Dolores Schwartz

Mailing Address: 597 Upper Millegan Rd

City: Great Falls State: MT Zip: 59405

Telephone: 406.866.3360

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

A. Project Name: Sauerkraut Creek Fish Screen/Water Conservation Project

River, stream, or lake: Sauerkraut Creek

Location: Township 13N Range 9W Section 29,32

County: Lewis and Clark

B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of this project is to conserve critical instream flows and prevent entrainment of populations of genetically pure, fluvial westslope cutthroat trout.

C. Brief Project Description:

Sauerkraut Creek is a 2nd order tributary to the upper Blackfoot River entering near river-mile 102.1 and supports fluvial, genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout, and limited bull trout rearing. The proposed Sauerkraut Fish Screen/Water Conservation Project involves eliminating several diversion points where "wild flooding" is occurring through unscreened irrigation ditches, and consolidating the irrigation infrastructure to one diversion point retrofitted with a fish screen. Currently, at least 15 cfs is captured at five different diversion points that irrigates ~75 acres. The existing irrigation system results in a loss of westslope cutthroat trout through numerous ditches, and causes stream channel impacts and channel dewatering (refer to "Ditch Work" figure). The upgraded diversion structure will serve several purposes as it will eliminate entrainment of fish and stream channel impacts, and secure instream flows through a water management agreement. The agreement involves piping ~4.4 cfs through a gravity fed system to irrigated fields, retiring six ditches and a new irrigation schedule that will shutdown diversion of creek flows when water levels meet targeted instream flows of 3 cfs.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: The water conservation project will greatly enhance the lower ~2 miles of Sauerkraut Creek but benefit seven miles of stream.

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): $ 11,630

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): $ 762 In-kind $ 3,000
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): $ 36,388 In-kind $ 20,250
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: $ 72,030

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

G. Attach specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete supplemental questionnaire (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).

H. Attach land management and maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.

III. PROJECT BENEFITS*

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

Bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and brown trout

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

Sections of Sauerkraut Creek have ideal habitat that support populations of wild, native trout including bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Future Fisheries recently supported two specific projects: the restoration of over a mile of Sauerkraut Creek that was impacted by placer mining and the replacement of three undersized culverts that restored fish passage to seven miles of Sauerkraut Creek. We anticipate even greater use of Sauerkraut Creek once this project is completed as we will eliminate trout entrainment and conserve critical instream flows. It should also be noted that this project is tied to the larger Habitat Conservation Program which entails a conservation easement with direct ties to restoration of native trout streams.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Yes, by providing off-site recruitment to the Blackfoot River and angling opportunities on-site. Sauerkraut Creek enters a portion of the Blackfoot River that receives high angling pressure.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

Yes, by increasing wild trout habitat in the Blackfoot River drainage. The public will also have legal streamside access via adjacent USFS lands and the Blackfoot River. The landowner is a part of the Block Management Program and is agreeable to allowing fishing access as well.

E. If the project requires maintenance, what is your time commitment to this project?:

The landowners have committed to signing a 20-year agreement.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

Already answered.

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

This project involves the continuation of the Blackfoot River Restoration program and the restoration of a bull trout and westslope cutthroat stream. Public benefits include: 1) recruitment of recreational fisheries to the Blackfoot River, 2) increasing the amount of fishable water, 3) improved water quality (temperature and sediment reductions) & water quantity on-site and downstream, and 4) contribute to the recovery of bull trout and delisting of bull trout from the ESA.

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

No. MTFWP and TU water rights specialists have been very involved with this project. Specifically, this project involves irrigating within the historical footprint and place of use and the point of diversion will not change. There is a potential for a change in purpose of remaining water right--specifically, instream beneficial use for fisheries. Due diligence has and will be conducted prior to any aspect of this project being implemented. Any transactions will ensure that salvaged water will remain instream.

I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No

J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

No

Each approved project sponsor must enter into a written agreement with the Department specifying terms and duration of the project.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor (if applicable): _____

***Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

Mail To: **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**
Habitat Protection Bureau
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Incomplete or late applications will be returned to applicant.

Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

*****Applications may be submitted at anytime, but must be received by the Future Fisheries Program office in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****